



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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February 14, 2008

TO: Public Health Employees

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *JEF*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: DPH CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Global climate change is a serious issue that poses significant risk to public health. Air pollution is linked to asthma and other respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, and heat waves result in heat-related deaths and illness, particularly among the elderly. Changes affecting plant and animal life can lead to increased risk of infectious disease and food and water-borne illness. The public health implications are so widely recognized that climate change was chosen as the national theme for Public Health Week 2008.

As Public Health employees, we are aware of the major implications the environment, particularly the availability of precious resources like water and clean air, has on our health and quality of life. It is our role as Public Health Ambassadors to set an example of conservation by reducing, reusing, and recycling at work and at home. To that end, the Department has adopted the following practices to conserve resources:

- Photocopy all materials double-sided whenever possible.
- Print all materials double-sided if printer has this capability and purchase only duplex-capable printers.
- Alter business practices where possible to reduce paper consumption. For example, have contractors e-mail a PDF of a signed monthly report (followed up by a hard copy, if needed) rather than faxing lengthy monthly reports and invoices and also sending hard copies.
- Include public transportation directions on meeting announcements and agendas for all DPH meetings held in buildings accessible by public transportation (e.g. 313 and 241 N. Figueroa, Hall of Administration, Commonwealth, Adams/Grand, and Metroplex). These directions can be found at <http://lapublichealth.org/plan>.
- Turn off computer monitors, desk/office lights, and radios when away from the office as well as lights in conference rooms, offices, storerooms, staff kitchens, etc. when not in use.

These policies may seem minor but implementing them will go a long way towards changing our culture into one that promotes responsibility, farsightedness, and conservation. As a department of over 4,000 employees, we have the capacity to make a difference if we all adopt and promote environmentally friendly habits. Attached is a tip sheet with ideas on how you can participate at work and at home. I encourage you to thoughtfully consider what changes you can make in your life. Don't forget to share it with your family and friends!

We are also interested in hearing more ideas from you. From now until the end of Public Health Week (April 13, 2008), I invite you to submit your tips and suggestions on how we can be more environmentally conscious at the Office of Planning's website (<http://lapublichealth.org/plan>).

JEF:mh

Attachment